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SITUATION INFORMATION REPORT

According to Guardian, self-styled Independent Radical News-weekly, besides the recent proliferation of underground and movement newspapers, another burgeoning segment of the news media has been the appearance in black communities across the country, of hundreds of small, locally written and produced newspapers. These communities are no longer content with what they deem to be inadequate and insensitive treatment from the white press, or compromising sensational treatment from the old black outlets. With few exceptions, these papers are run by black men in their twenties and were made possible by the big increase of low cost, non-union, offset printing houses.

"These newspapers were conceived to accomplish four major goals: to legitimate a certain point of view; to communicate that point of view to all people in the black community; to foster unity among the various black groups in the area; to suggest and at times initiate action to effect political, economic, and other changes.

"The man who puts out a newspaper inherits a power to define events in his own terms, with an amount of guaranteed credibility.

"The young black men who operate these papers have decided that they will be doing that defining - at least for their own communities - and not the white papers downtown.

"All of the papers sacrifice so-called professionalism to sincerity and community relevance.

"The various non-Chicago, Illinois, papers are much more closely connected with white student activists than the Chicago ones.

"One of the developments that have occurred in the black community since the creation of these papers, in Chicago at least, has been the increasing militancy of the Defender, the Courier, and the Gazette - the traditional black papers.

"In the smaller cities and towns of Illinois, the new black press is the only black press. Their existence is much more precarious than their city counterparts, since they are more of a threat to the local establishments because of their immediate impact on the small towns.